

ABSTRACT

If the width of a rectangle to be drawn by a drawing command is less than or equal to a first reference value that is previously determined dependently on the length of one record of cache memory, the drawing command for the rectangle is held in a rectangular drawing command storage area in a RAM. If several rectangles held in the rectangular drawing command storage constitute a lateral-direction gradation pattern, a drawing command group that draws the rectangles is converted into a secondary drawing command that repeatedly draws in an auxiliary scanning direction a virtual-image of one line that constitutes the lateral-direction gradation pattern and that extends in the main scanning direction. There is no need to overwrite the record in the cache memory while generating drawing data based on the secondary drawing command because the width of the virtual-image is less than or equal to the width of one record in the cache memory.